crores for providing fire prevention and safety measures in Government buildings in the Capital;

(b) if so, what are the details of Government buildings where fire-fighting equipments are not in order;

(c) what are the details of the buildings in which fire fighting equipments will be installed; and

(d) by when the task will be completed.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Sale of plots of land in the Capital on Forged documents

902. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Crime Branch has recently arrested some persons in connection with the selling of plots of land in the Capital on forged documents;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) what are the details of the incriminating documents, etc. seized during the raids; and

(d) what further action is contemplated by Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBRAM): (a) to (d) Three cases under various sections of the IPC have been registered and all the accused have been arrested. During the raid, perpetual lease papers, sale deed papers, challan forms of different banks, fake sanctions of plans, show cause notices to the allottees of the plots with their replies, possesion letters of DDA, will papers and special power of attorney papers were seized by the Delhi Police.

Setting up of Regional Offices for preparation of Environmental management Plans

903. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up regional offices to facilitate speedier preparation of environmental management plans for new projects and for better monitoring of their implementation;

(b) if so, the names of the places where such regional offices will be set up;

(c) the criteria on which the locations have been identified; and

(d) to what extent the regional offices will keep a close watch on preservation of forests etc?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) Six Regional Offices have been sanctioned by the Ministry of Environment and Forests with Headquarters at Shillong, Calcutta, Bangalore, Bhopal, Chandigarh and Lucknow.

(c) the headquarters of these offices have been located within each region taking into account the coverage, access, load of work, facilities available, etc.

(d) The functions of the Regional Offices include the following:

A. *Forestry functions*

(i) To monitor and evaluate all ongoing forestry development projects and schemes with specific

emphasis on conservation of forests;

(ii) To assist the States and Union Territories in preparation of the proposals involving diversion forest lands for non-forestry purposes under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for expeditious processing and disposal of such cases;

(iii) To undertake physical inspection of sites in cases of diversion of forests involving an area of more than 40 ha.;

(iv) To monitor the implementation of conditions and safeguards stipulated by the Central Government in regard to diversions approved under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;

(v) To assist the States and Union Territories in the preparation of management plans for working of forests under their control within the framework of guidelines issued by the Central Government from time to time; and

(vi) To assist the States and Union Territories in streamlining collection, collation, storage and retrieval of data covering all the facts of forests and forestry activities and to transmit such data to the Central Government|Central data, processing Centre.

B. *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Function*

(i) To follow implementation of conditions and safeguards laid down for projects/activities when environmental clearnce is given;

(ii) To follow up pollution control measures taken by industries, local bodies, Government (Central/State) Undertakings, etc.

(iii) To collect and furnish information relating to environmental impact assessment of projects, pollution control measures, methodology and status, legal and enenforcement measures; environmental protection in special conservation areas like wetlands, mangroves and biosphere reserves; and

(iv) To maintain liaison and provide linkage with the concerned States Government, with Central Government agencies, (including Regional Offices of Botanical Survey of India, Forest Survey of India and Zoological Survey of India with Project Authorities, with the Regional Offices of the Central Pollution Control Board; with State Pollution Control Boards and with non Government organisations involved in implementation of programmes relating to environment.

Top-level vacancies in NTC

904. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of top-level positions in the National Textile Corporation (NTC) are lying vacant for a long time; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons for the delay in filling up the posts?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) The details of Board level vacancies in NTC (Holding Company) and its subsidiary corporation are given below: